

ANDEAN COUNTERDRUG INITIATIVE BACKGROUND

Countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Venezuela

Andean Region:

Key Achievements: Eradication

- Eradication programs reduced total coca cultivation across Andean region by 25% between 2001 and 2004

Key Achievements: Alternative Development

- Between 2002 and 2005, alternative development programs in the Andean region:
 - supported more than 76,000 hectares of legal crops;
 - resulted in the manual eradication of 23,200 hectares of illicit crops (coca and opium poppy);
 - created more than 96,000 jobs; and
 - benefited more than 64,000 families.

Bolivia:

Key Achievements: Eradication and Interdiction

- USG support to Bolivia has resulted in the reduction of potential cocaine production from an estimated 240 metric tons in 1995 to 70 metric tons in 2005
- Bolivia eradicated over 6,000 hectares of coca in the Chapare in 2005.
- The Government of Bolivia (GOB) continued a strong interdiction performance in 2005, seizing 11.38 metric tons of cocaine, destroying 2,583 cocaine base labs and making some 4,300 arrests in 6,713 operations.

Key Achievements: Alternative Development

- Alternative Development has provided over 800 kilometers of improved roads to help farmers reach markets while providing collateral social benefits to thousands of families
- Average licit gross farm gate family income in the Cochabamba Tropics rose from \$2,390 in 2004, to \$2,667 in 2005.
- Chapare and Yungas high value licit crop exports – such as bananas, coffee, pineapple, cocoa, and palm heart - increased from \$25.3 million in FY 2004, to \$35 million in FY 2005.

Challenges Ahead:

- Former cocalero leader Evo Morales' landslide victory in the December 18 presidential elections may present new challenges for the USG counternarcotics program, as he campaigned against U.S. eradication and other policies.

- Morales claims to want an effective war against narco-trafficking and promises to go after precursor chemicals and major drug producers aggressively.
- That said, forced eradication in the Chapare must continue - presently coccaleros replant coca roughly as fast as the GOB can eradicate it. Eradication operations were recently halted by coccalero protests – the GOB ordered the eradication to continue, but progress has been limited due to continued protests and lack of a clear counternarcotics (CN) policy by the Morales Administration.
- The Yungas is the GOB's principal CN challenge - it is by far the largest coca growing area in Bolivia, with severe topography, and a long history of traditional coca cultivation and resistance to eradication. Alternative development activities in the area will be critical to strengthening local support for reduction of illegal coca; but even when combined with effective interdiction, cannot counter the long-term trend line in Yungas without the eradication component.
- Bolivia remains a significant transit zone for Peruvian and Colombian cocaine enroute to Brazil, Argentina and eventually Europe and the United States.
- The nexus between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime is evident in Bolivia with increasing evidence of international drug trafficking organizations, especially Mexicans and Colombians, operating in Bolivia. Bolivia is also susceptible to becoming a staging area for domestic, regional and international terrorists due to the expanse of its virtually unmonitored borders, its thinly populated rural areas, its ongoing social conflicts and its well-earned reputation for corruption.
- USG support for the Bolivian military, including counternarcotics efforts, is on Congressional hold pending a human rights certification now underway by the Department of State.

Brazil:

Key Achievements: Eradication and Interdiction

- Authorities seized 15.8 metric tons of cocaine in 2005, up from just 7.7 tons in 2004.
- In 2005, Operation COBRA (COlombia/BRAzil), with representatives from Brazil, Peru and Colombia working in the Joint Intelligence Center in Tabatinga, successfully increased cocaine interdiction in the north of Brazil.
- In October 2004, Brazil authorized the use of lethal force as a last resort in intercepting drug trafficking aircraft (no planes have been shot down to date).

Key Achievements: Demand Reduction

- In 2005, the Brazilian version of the DARE program, PROERD, spread to all 26 Brazilian states and the Federal District. PROERD is the largest DARE program in the world outside of the U.S.
- Nearly 5 million Brazilian children have been trained in the 5th grade DARE curriculum in Brazil since 1992.

Key Achievements: Counterterrorism

- The USG enjoys excellent bilateral intelligence and law enforcement cooperation with the Government of Brazil on counterterrorism issues and their participation in the “3+1” tri-border group.

Challenges Ahead:

- Increasing the Brazilian investigative and intelligence capabilities;
- expanding cooperation with neighboring law enforcement through joint intelligence capabilities; and
- maintaining the support given to states most affected by criminal gangs that control the drug trade.

Colombia:

Key Achievements: Eradication and Interdiction

- For the first time ever, the U.S.-supported Anti-Narcotics Police Directorate (DIRAN) sprayed over 140,000 hectares of illicit crops in 2005.
- The Government of Colombia (GOC) also reports that a record 31,000 hectares were manually eradicated in 2005.
- Between 2001 and 2004, aerial eradication reduced coca cultivation by one third and opium poppy cultivation by two thirds in Colombia (2005 cultivation figures were not expected until late March 2006).
- Estimated potential production of pure cocaine declined another 6.5 percent in 2004 to 430 metric tons, its lowest level in at least seven years.
- The CNP, led by DIRAN, again broke all interdiction records in 2005, with over 94 metric tons of processed cocaine (HCl) and cocaine base seized, 107 HCl laboratories destroyed and 779 base labs destroyed.
- Combined public forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Police) seized a record total of 223 metric tons of cocaine and cocaine base and destroyed 137 HCl laboratories.

Key Achievements: Public Security

- For the first time in the country’s history, the GOC has established a permanent government presence in all of Colombia’s 1,098 municipalities.
- Major security indicators improved again in 2005:
 - homicides were down by 13 percent;
 - kidnappings were down by 51 percent;
 - overall terrorist attacks were down by 21 percent; and
 - The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) was down by 15 percent.
- A Gallup poll conducted in January 2006 reveals the new optimism which Colombians share about their public security:
 - 72 percent of Colombians believe their country is more secure today than one year ago.
 - 76 percent have a favorable opinion of the Colombian military (compared to 71 percent for the Catholic Church).

- Colombians who hold a favorable view toward the country's principal illegal armed groups - the paramilitary AUC and the guerilla National Liberation Army (ELN) and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) - register just 7 percent, 2 percent, and 1 percent of the population, respectively.
- Before Plan Colombia started in 1999, more than half the populace believed Colombia's guerilla forces could take control of power in Colombia. Today only a quarter believe that is still possible.
- More than two thirds - 69 percent - hold a favorable opinion of Plan Colombia.
- Real spending on defense has increased from \$2.6 billion in 2001, to a projected \$4.48 billion (USD equivalent) in 2006 under President Uribe's Administration. Adjusted for inflation, that represents real growth of over 30 percent.

Key Achievements: Organizational Attack on Narcoterrorists

- Streamlined extradition procedures have resulted in over 300 extraditions since President Uribe's inauguration on Aug 7, 2002), with 304 Colombian nationals and 11 non-nationals extradited by the end of 2005.
- In 2005, three FARC commanders were killed, many other important leaders were either killed or captured, and other important narco-traffickers were arrested and are now awaiting extradition to the United States.
- Increased military pressure resulted in the December 2002 unilateral ceasefire declaration by the United Self Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), the largest of the paramilitary groups.
- Over 25,000 members of the paramilitary United Self Defense Forces (AUC) have been demobilized since 2003 (with over 60% of those in the latter half of 2005). In addition, almost 3,000 members of the FARC, AUC, and the National Liberation Army (ELN) deserted in 2005. Since August 2002, when President Uribe took office, almost 8,000 members of the terrorist groups have deserted individually.

Key Achievements: Extending Rule of Law

- The Culture of Lawfulness program has taught over 16,000 ninth-graders in 190 schools using over 320 teachers who stress the importance of lawfulness in society.
- The judicial system continues the transition to an oral accusatorial system, causing a change in the roles and responsibilities of the judges, prosecutors, and criminal investigators. The system is now functioning in Bogota and three municipal areas. Six new municipal areas will be added in 2006, including Medellin and Cali. Over 17,000 prosecutors, judges, and criminal investigators received intensive training in the new accusatory system in 2005.
- USG programs have supported the cultivation of over 76,000 hectares of legal crops and completed more than 1,000 social and infrastructure projects in the last five years. More than 64,000 families in 17 departments have benefited from these programs.

Challenges Ahead:

- Continuing transfer of greater responsibilities in counter-narcotics funding and operations to the GOC, while maintaining operational results;
- countering the rapid replanting of coca in areas sprayed by the eradication program;
- dealing with increased illicit cultivation in Colombia's national parks;
- nationalizing USG supported programs;
- supporting the GOC's efforts to demobilize and reintegrate ex-combatants, while advancing reconciliation and victim reparations processes;
- increasing the number of police to deal with the power vacuum created by the demobilization of the AUC;
- gaining control of the vast Pacific coastal zones;
- maintaining an aging air fleet that is required to fly more hours every year; and
- maintaining the political will of the Colombian people to confront and defeat their internal enemies.

Ecuador:

Key Achievements: Eradication and Interdiction:

- The Government of Ecuador (GOE) seized a record 45 metric tons of cocaine in 2005, an enormous increase from 3.4 metric tons in 2004.
- U.S. counternarcotics efforts enjoy excellent cooperation from the Ecuadorian National Police and the Armed Forces.
- In early 2004, the Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) donated Humvees and five-ton trucks to the Ecuadorian army special forces and marines.
- The GOE also inaugurated a new police headquarters for the anti-narcotics police in San Lorenzo.
- The USG donated three fast patrol launches and constructed a new \$3 million pier for the Ecuadorian marines that will significantly improve their patrolling capabilities.
- The 120-man NAS-funded Quick Reaction Force (QRF) of the Ecuadorian army completed US Special Forces training and took up station in Santa Cecilia, Sucumbios. The QRF is providing essential patrolling along the northern border.

Key Achievements: Alternative Development:

- Increased the promotion of licit income and jobs by improving social and productive infrastructure such as building 11 bridges and 47 water and sanitation systems.

Challenges Ahead:

- Improving the detection and prosecution of money laundering;
- Expanded training of police, prosecutors and judges;
- Interdiction of illicit chemical precursors;
- Signing a bilateral maritime agreement; and

- Improving communications and coordination between implementing organizations to improve service delivery and increase public awareness about USG and GOE efforts.

Panama:

Key Achievements: Expanding Law Enforcement Capability

- The Government of Panama (GOP) fully cooperates with the USG and international partners in combating drug trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, and crime.
- The Torrijos Administration, which took office September 2004, has emphasized strengthening bilateral security and law enforcement cooperation.
- USG assistance has improved tactical mobility and communications, particularly in the remote Darien region, and the Panamanian National Police's (PNP) ability to maintain and operate equipment provided by the US.
- USG assistance has allowed the PNP to reestablish a presence in the remote parts of the Darien. We are working to reinforce the PNP's infrastructure in this area.
- Notable successes have included the PNP small boat unit (UMOF), which received four patrol boats and truck from the USG in 2003.
- With support from the US, Panama has made great strides in recent years to improve its money-laundering regime.

Challenges Ahead:

- Panama's proximity to the world's largest cocaine producer and America's major heroin supplier, its developed transportation and financial infrastructure, coupled with limited control of its airspace, land and sea borders, render the country highly vulnerable to narcotics traffickers, terrorist groups, and other international criminals.
- Strengthening Panama's National Air Service operations center and intelligence units to allow closer cooperation among Panamanian law enforcement agencies and facilitate interaction with USG counterparts. In particular, this assistance will help minimize the use of Panamanian airspace by drug traffickers. The goal is to improve aerial reconnaissance capability.
- Enhancing controls at Panama's major airports and choke points along the Pan-American Highway.
- Establishing a new base for the Panama's maritime service on the Atlantic Coast and implementing a logistics management program.
- Strengthening access controls and systems within Panama's Free Zone Authority, since the Colon Free Zone has been identified as a primary part of the Black Market Peso Exchange.
- Reshaping the police role in preventing crime, with special emphasis placed on confronting youth gang activity.

Peru:

Key Achievements: Eradication and Interdiction

- Almost 9,000 hectares were eradicated in 2005, with an additional 3,200 hectares voluntarily pulled up by farmers participating in the alternative development program.
- Over 1,400 metric tons of coca leaf and 15 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 2005, up from 845 and 13 metric tons, respectively, in 2004.
- Over 500 kilograms of opium latex and 6 kilograms of heroin were seized in 2005, up from 285 and 1 kilograms, respectively, in 2004.
- In addition, 122 metric tons of precursor chemicals were seized, 1,289 rustic drug-processing labs were destroyed, and 1,821 metric tons of coca leaf were destroyed in 2005.

Key Achievements: Government Partnership

- The Government of Peru (GOP) has exhibited strong political will in support of eradication despite the unpopularity of that effort in the year before an election. They are recognizing that concessions to growers do not lead to a reduction in cultivation.
- The GOP has also committed increased resources (police) to interdiction, supporting destruction of rustic labs, control of essential chemicals and mobile interdiction points to detect drugs and chemicals.
- Programs to detect seaport and airport smuggling are now established and functioning well. A major operation involving drugs smuggled in frozen squid was broken. The goal is to have customs manifest review units in all major ports.

Challenges ahead:

- Peru coca cultivation was up 38 percent to 38,000 hectares in 2005 despite surpassing eradication goals. This is partially due to expansion of cultivation area, which was included in the measurement for the first time.
- Voluntary and forced eradication have been targets of attacks by Shining Path guerrillas. U.S.G.-provided helicopters supporting eradication came under fire last year, and in November, personnel supporting voluntary eradication were kidnapped, interrogated in front of members of a community, and warned to cease trying to convince communities to sign up for the program. Counternarcotics police have been attacked and killed.
- The GOP has raised its target for eradication to 10,000 hectares forced eradication. They will also aim to create coca-free zones in the Departments of San Martin and Ucayali.
- Increased interdiction in the source zones as well as transit zones is another goal for 2006. Increased manpower will come from US-assisted police academies.
- Expanded drug interdiction in Peru's seaports is a target for 2006, as is strengthened capabilities of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, the Peruvian Coast Guard, the National Port Authority, Peruvian Customs and the Peruvian National Police.
- Reform of the organizations regulating coca for traditional uses and registration of growers for licit use.

- Other challenges for 2006 include development and prosecution of money-laundering cases, and development and implementation of a national strategy for chemical control.

Venezuela:

Key Achievements: Eradication and Interdiction

- Continued a strong record on interdicting the transport of cocaine, heroin, and other drugs.
- Building on consecutive record seizures of cocaine in 2002, 2003 and 2004, the Government of Venezuela (GOV) reportedly seized 54 metric tons during the first eight months of 2005.
- In November 2005, the GOV carried out an eight-day eradication operation in the Serrania de Perija mountain range, which lies on Venezuela's northwestern border with Colombia. Reportedly, 132 hectares of illicit coca, marijuana and poppy cultivations were manually eradicated.

Challenges Ahead:

- The USG is committed to renewing cooperation with its Venezuelan counterparts at all levels in the war on drugs.
- Restarting stalled projects - e.g., development of a drug intelligence fusion and analysis center, initiation of riverine interdiction operations on the Orinoco River, and construction of a centralized storage and incineration facility.
- Disrupting the transit of drugs entering Venezuela and raising public awareness regarding the dangers of organized crime and narcotics trafficking.